



## Archdiocese of Castries

### Archbishop's Office

Battery Road, Vigie. P.O. Box 267

General Post Office, Castries, LCo4 101, Saint Lucia, West Indies

Phone: (758) 452-2416, or (758) 453-7200

Email: [archbishop@candw.lc](mailto:archbishop@candw.lc)

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## Press Statement

### On the Court's Ruling Decriminalizing Buggery in Saint Lucia

#### From the Office of the Archbishop of Castries

August 04, 2025

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The recent ruling by the Court of Saint Lucia, which decriminalizes buggery in the privacy of one's home, marks a significant legal development in our nation. In light of this, I wish to share the Catholic Church's position from a moral standpoint.

First and foremost, the Church teaches that **every human person is created in the image and likeness of God** and, regardless of sexual orientation, is deserving of respect, compassion, and sensitivity. The Church firmly rejects all forms of violence, hatred, or unjust discrimination against persons who experience same-sex attraction.

However, we also reaffirm that, according to the consistent teaching of Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, **sexual acts outside of the bond of sacramental marriage between one man and one woman—including homosexual acts—are morally disordered**, as they are not open to the gift of life nor do they reflect the full meaning of conjugal love intended by God.

It is important to note that **legal permissibility does not determine moral acceptability**. The decriminalization of buggery reflects a legal decision about privacy and personal freedom but does not change the Church's understanding of the moral order.

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*"All I want, is to know Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:10)*

In this context, we remind the faithful of the words of the Catechism:

«Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery... they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection» (CCC §2359)

The Church remains committed to **welcoming all persons** and to providing them with pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and the support they need to live in accordance with God's plan for human sexuality. We call upon all Catholics, and indeed all citizens of goodwill, to treat every person with charity and dignity, avoiding any form of harassment or marginalization.

As we navigate the changing legal and social landscape of our beloved Saint Lucia, let us continue to **proclaim the Gospel of truth and love**, and pray that our society may always uphold the dignity of every person while remaining faithful to the moral values that sustain healthy families and communities.

May God bless you and our nation.

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